



## Totier Creek Reservoir 2007



Totier Creek is a 66-acre Albemarle County Parks reservoir. Due to its large watershed dominated by agriculture, its waters are typically muddied after heavy rains. Despite this, the reservoir still produces some very good fishing. The Albemarle County Parks Department provides a well-maintained ramp and parking area for visitors. Picnic areas are also available.

Totier Creek has always had a diverse fish community, with largemouth bass, bluegill, and redear sunfish dominating the fishery. Sampling with electrofishing in April, 2006 indicated that these species were still among the most abundant, but that black crappie had also become an important component of the fishery. Only one channel catfish was collected, but electrofishing is generally not effective on these bottom dwellers in steep-sided lakes (channel cats are stocked annually). A total of ten species of fish were collected.

Largemouth bass abundance was moderate, but appeared to have improved markedly since the previous sample in 2000. Although overall numbers were not great, the size structure of the population was solid. Three bass exceeding 20 inches were collected and recruitment of young bass looked strong. Body condition of quality size bass was good (meaning they were plump).

Bluegill was the most abundant species in the 2006 sample, and it was much more numerous than in 2000 even though sampling time was lower in 2006. The size structure of this population had also improved, albeit only slightly. Only one 8-inch fish was collected.

Redear sunfish abundance was unchanged since 2000. There were a few in the 8-inch range, but they were skinny. Black crappie, a new addition to the fishery, were almost as abundant as bass in the sample. The largest were in the 10-inch range.

The presence of several non-game species (American eel, gizzard shad, golden shiner, and white sucker) and warmouth sunfish that access the lake through its feeder creek may be limiting the potential of this fishery by competing with game species. Even so, there is some good fishing to be had when the water isn't too muddy.